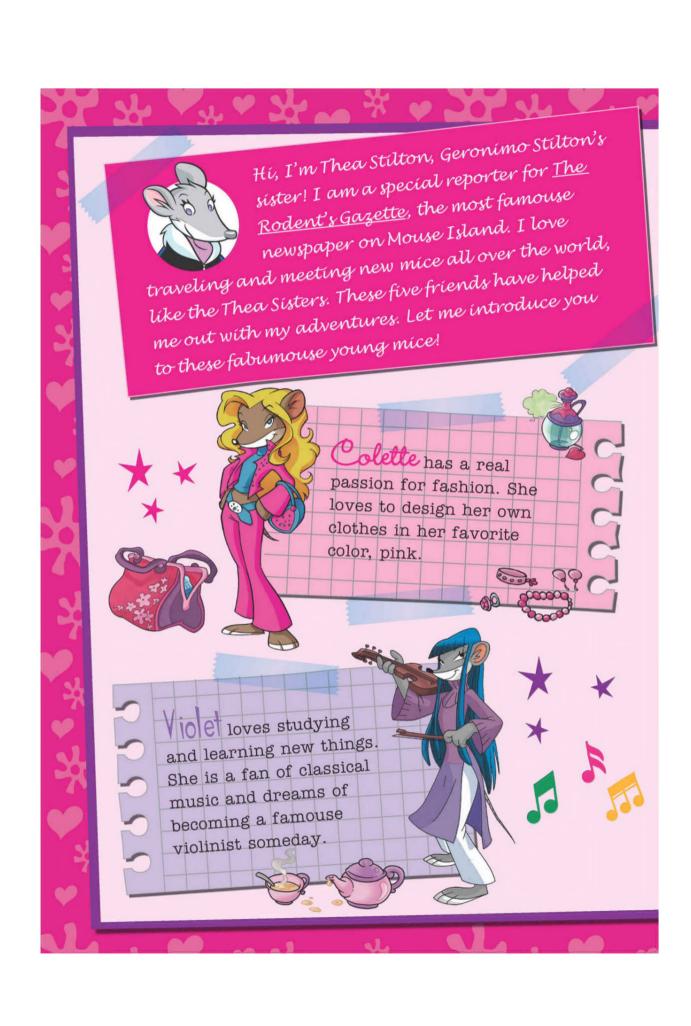


HELLO! WELCOME TO THE FABUMOUSE WORLD OF THE THEA SISTERS!



Theasisters





Thea Stilton MOUSEFORD ACADEMY A FASHIONABLE MYSTERY



Scholastic Inc.

Copyright © 2010 by Edizioni Piemme S.p.A., Palazzo Mondadori, Via Mondadori 1, 20090 Segrate, Italy

International Rights © Atlantyca S.p.A.

English translation © 2015 by Atlantyca S.p.A.

The publisher does not have any control over and does not assume any responsibility for author or third-party websites or their content.

GERONIMO STILTON and THEA STILTON names, characters, and related indicia are copyright, trademark, and exclusive license of Atlantyca S.p.A. All rights reserved. The moral right of the author has been asserted. Based on an original idea by Elisabetta Dami.

www.geronimostilton.com

Published by Scholastic Inc., 557 Broadway, New York, NY 10012. SCHOLASTIC and associated logos are trademarks and/or registered trademarks of Scholastic Inc.

Stilton is the name of a famous English cheese. It is a registered trademark of the Stilton Cheese Makers' Association. For more information, go to www.stiltoncheese.com.

All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. No part of this publication may be reproduced, transmitted, downloaded, decompiled, reverse engineered, or stored in or introduced into any information storage and retrieval system, in any form or by any means, whether electronic or mechanical, now known or hereafter invented, without the express written permission of the publisher. For information regarding permission, please contact Atlantyca S.p.A., Via Leopardi 8, 20123 Milan, Italy; e-mail foreignrights@atlantyca.it, atlantyca.com.

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are either the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously, and any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, business establishments, events, or locales is entirely coincidental.

e-ISBN 978-1-338-59943-5

Text by Thea Stilton
Original title *Chi si nasconde a Topford?*Cover by Giuseppe Facciotto
Illustrations by Valeria Brambilla and Francesco Castelli
Graphics by Chiara Cebraro

Special thanks to Anna Bloom Translated by Anna Pizzelli Interior design by Becky James

First printing 2015

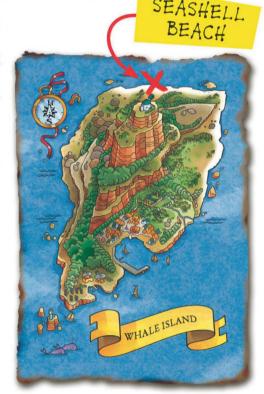


The halls of Mouseford Academy were completely deserted. Classes had ended for the weekend, and the building was as

QUIET AS A MOUSE. The sun shone

brightly, and an occan breeze drifted through the windows. The lack of students was easy to explain — this was the first real beach day of the year!

Most mice flocked to the **wide** beaches on the east coast of Whale Island, but



Mouseford students and professors liked Seashell Beach best. It was a small cove with water surrounded by rocks that were good for **climbing**.

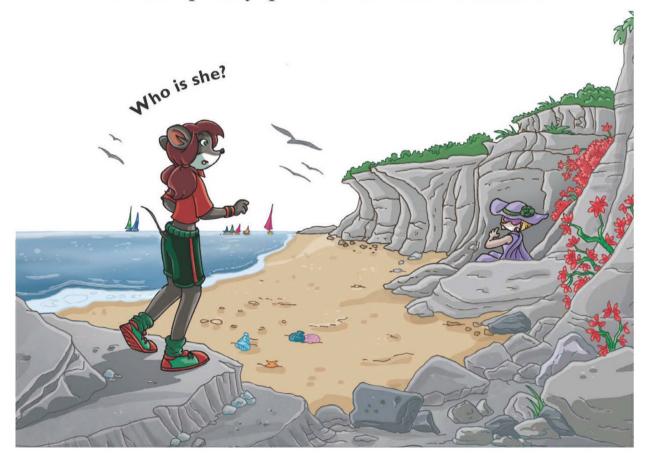
Every year, Nicky volunteered to be a weekend lifeguard. She loved waking up before everyone else and jogging to the deserted cove. In the early morning, Nicky



had the beach all to herself.

That morning, however, Nicky had company. As soon as she got to the cove, Nicky noticed a STRANGE RODENT sitting on the rocks, staring out to sea.

As soon as the stranger heard Nicky approach, she **JUMPED** to her feet. The mouse quickly put on her wide-brimmed



straw hat, adjusted her **SUNGLASSES**, and took off running like she was on an exercise wheel.

Nicky shrugged. How strange!





At Mouseford Academy, the other Thea Sisters were also **RUMMING**— they were really late!

"Hurry, mouselets! We'll miss the bus!" Paulina called, her voice **ECHOING** in the empty hallway.

"Colette took too long putting on her sunscreen!" Pam grumbled, lugging a heavy bag **full of Towels**.

"You're supposed to apply sunscreen before you go outside!" Colette exclaimed.

"Well, what about the twenty minutes you spent picking out a bathing suit?" Pam asked.

"There are no shortcuts where fashion is



concerned!" Colette panted, clutching her **PURPLE** beach bag.

The Thea Sisters jogged out of the building and saw a big group boarding the beach bus.

"Finally, you're here." Elly sighed as soon as she saw the THEA SISTERS climb on the bus.



Shen and Craig were on the bus as well. They were already wearing their bathing suits.

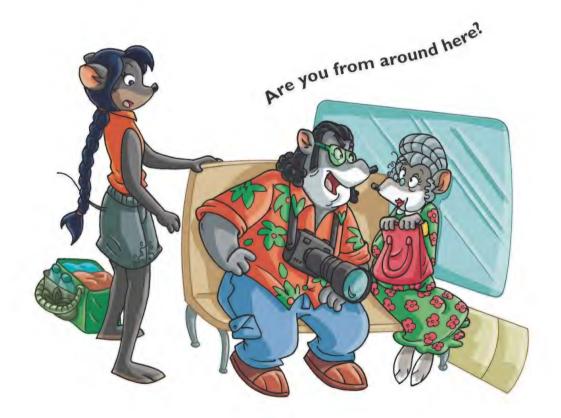
"Mouselings, we'll have to provide to get seats," Pam said. She waved at Paulina, who had already been **PUSHED** to the back of the bus by the crowd.





An old lady sat in front of Paulina, next to a tourist wearing a **brightly colored** Hawaiian shirt.

"Oof." The lady sighed. "Every summer gets worse! There are more and more tourists, and no seats on the bus!"





The rodent in the Hawaiian shirt turned to her. "Are you from around here?" he asked. "I bet you know **EVERYONE** on the island."

Paulina noticed that he was wearing a professional-looking camera.

"My friend Anna absolutely loves this island," the tourist continued. "She has blue a few days ago . . . maybe you've seen her?"

The old **MOUSE** shook her head and dug a magazine out of her bag.

The mouse with the camera didn't give up. He spent the whole trip asking everyone around him if they'd seen his friend Anna.

Finally, the bus reached the first stop.

"TURTLE BEACH!"

the bus driver called.

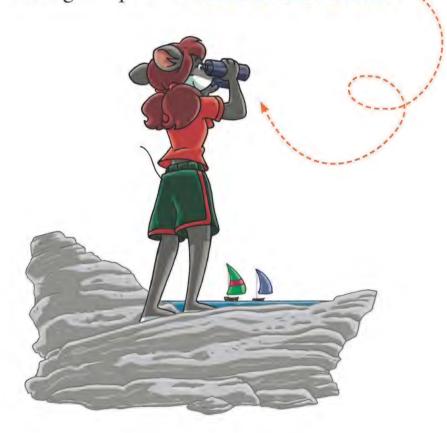
In a few **Short** minutes, more than half the passengers had gotten off. The

Thea Sisters could finally sit next to one another!
The mice chattered excitedly as they

dropped into their seats. Soon they would be at the beach enjoying some **FUN** in the **SUN**!



At the cove, Nicky stood on a rock with a good view of the beach. She peered at the sky through a pair of **BINOCULARS**.



On Whale Island, the weather could change quickly. Nicky wanted to be sure there were no **THUNDERSTORMS** coming.

Nicky turned to look at the hills behind her and caught a glimpse of a remote cottage named Cheddarton House.

Cheddarton House was well known on the island, but **no one** had lived there for a long time.

"Strange," Nicky said to herself. "It looks like the cottage WINDOWS are open.



Maybe the owner finally rented it out."

As Nicky **WATCHED**, someone stepped onto the balcony. She immediately recognized the mysterious mouse who had been sitting on the **beach** that morning.

Just then the bus drove up, honking loudly.

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!

Nicky immediately spotted her friends among the crowd of rodents headed to the beach and hurried to meet them.

"Our favorite lifeguard!" Colette shouted in greeting. She dropped her huge bag on the ground and **Integred** Nicky enthusiastically. "Look how many of us came today! You'll have your paws full keeping an eye on everyone!"

Nicky laughed. "If you wanted the beach to yourself, you shouldn't have taken so long getting ready!"

Nicky thought about the **Strange** mouse she'd just spotted through her binoculars. "This morning when I got to the beach, there was someone here early. But she **Manager** when she saw me! I think she's renting Cheddarton House."

The others **turned** to look at the cottage, but they couldn't see much.

Craig bounded up and interrupted them. "We're playing **Beach VelleyBall** after lunch! You should join us," he squeaked. "It's going to be the game of the century: professors versus students!"

Craig's **ENTHUSIASM** was so contagious that none of them could resist!

After lunch, the students set up a net. Craig

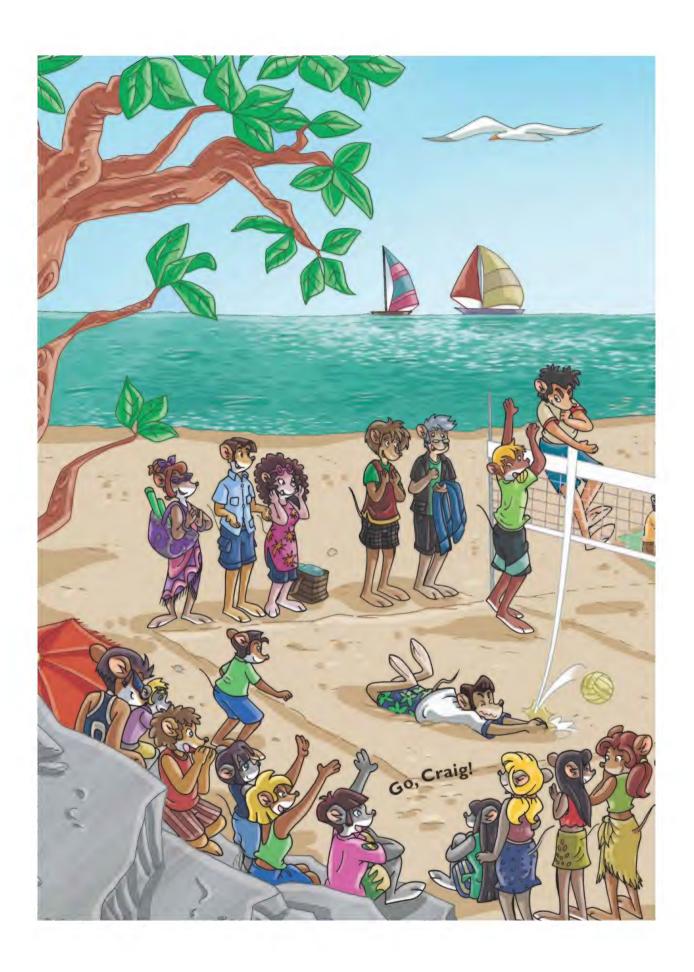
volunteered to be the captain of the student team, and Professor Robert Plotfur led the professors. The two captains shook to start the game.

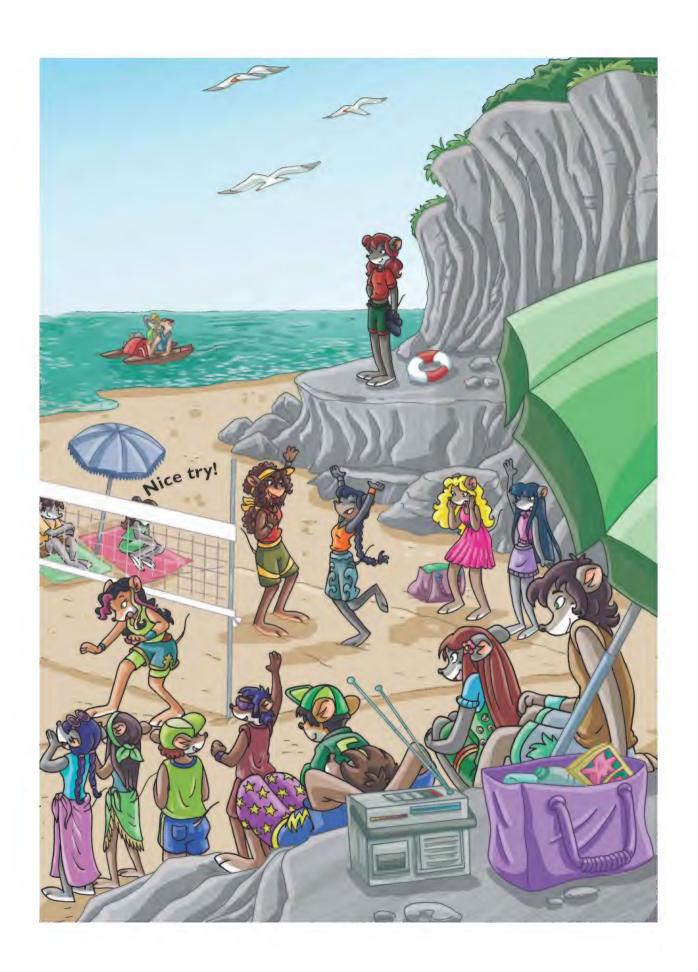
On Craig's team, Pam and Paulina got into position. Professors Ian Van Kraken and Anna Aria took their spots on the other side of the net.

As the lifeguard, Nicky had to stay on the rocks to **WATCH** the swimming area, but every once in a while, she turned to see how the game was going.

It was an exciting matchup. The students got an early lead. Pam and Paulina were excellent players. But the professors were good, too. They came back **STRONG** — and won the whole thing!

"Rematch!" Craig demanded, eager to redeem himself.





Violet **Checked** the time and gasped. "It's four o'clock! We have a newspaper editorial meeting at the academy!" she exclaimed.

"Mouselets, we're late! We have to go!"



THE SUMMER ISSUE

The two teams agreed to postpone the **REMATCH** until the following day. "The news waits for no mouse!" said Professor Plotfur.

The Thea Sisters made it back to school in **RCCPRD** time. When they finally burst into the classroom where the rest of the newspaper staff was meeting, everyone else was already there.

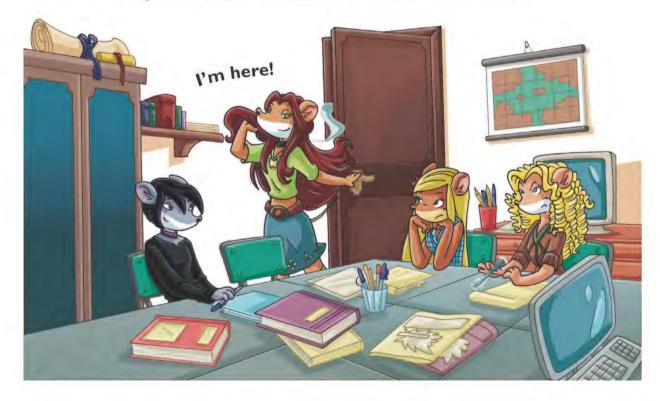
"Sorry we're late!" **Violet** cried, sitting down at the table.

Tanja, the editor in chief, smiled. "Don't worry; you deserved some **beach time!** Ruby's not here yet, either." She rolled her eyes.



Ruby Flashyfur always preferred to arrive fashionably late. She waltzed in a few minutes later in a cloud of perfume, plopped into a chair, and sighed. "I hated to leave my new superdeluxe hot tub to come to this meeting."

Tanja tapped the table with her pen. "Let's focus, mouselings! We only have two weeks before the **Special** summer issue comes out, and we need some fabumouse ideas."



"We could **INTERVIEW** the village fishermice," Paulina suggested.

Ruby **snorted**. "That would be great — if we wanted to put all our readers right to sleep!"

"If you don't like that idea, Ruby, why don't you suggest something?" Pam said.

Ruby tossed her hair. "Well, now that you mention it, I do have the **perfect** idea." She paused dramatically. "We should do an article on the most exclusive hot spot for the rich and fabumouse — my mom's yacht!"

"We featured your mom's yacht last year," Tanja reminded her. "Don't you remember? You wouldn't stop talking about it."

Ruby turned as **RED AS A GOUDA CHEESE RIND**, and the other mice broke into giggles.

"Who else has thoughts?" Tanja continued.

"The summer issue is our big chance to do something Creative!" Tanja's eyes lit up like she was staring down at a gourmet cheese plate.

The room got very **quiet**. The newsmice stared at their paws, thinking carefully.

"Why don't we go to dinner?" Elly



suggested finally, breaking the silence. "We can pick up tomorrow morning after some well-aged Cheddar and a good night's sleep. That always helps me."

Tanja shrugged. "Sounds good. I want to hear some fabumouse ideas from all of you tomorrow!"





After taking their **Beach Gear** to their rooms, the Thea Sisters met at the cafeteria and got in line for food. Pam, who was hungry after a busy day at the beach, filled up her **TRAY** with lots of **TRIPLE-CHEESE** PIZZA.

Colette **Shook** her head. "Haven't you ever heard of a **WELL-BALANCED** meal?"

"Sure!" Pam replied with a big smile. "Look at my tray — it's perfectly balanced on my paw!"

Paulina laughed and carefully surveyed her **Veggie** options. She was famouse for her **elaborate**, super-creative salads. She

stopped suddenly and turned to Colette. "I've got the perfect idea for the summer issue — **healthy** food to eat at the beach!" she exclaimed, beaming.

"An article like that would certainly be **useful** to Pam!" Colette teased. Then she stared at Pam, suddenly serious. "Oh, dear — I think you got sunburned today!"



Pam touched her face and grimaced. "My snout feels like cheese toast!"

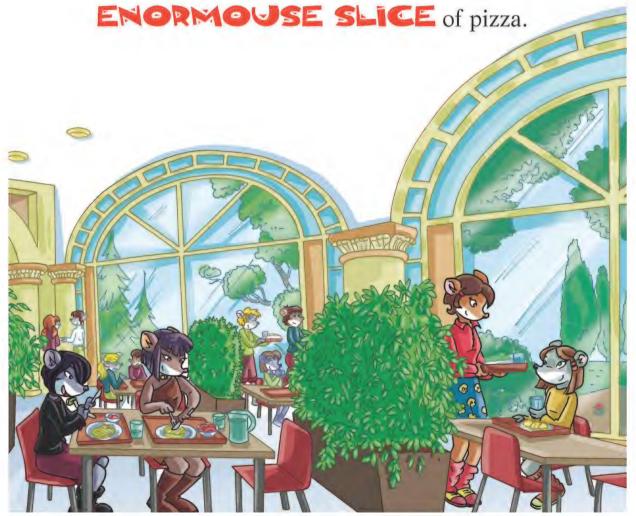
"But maybe that could be an article in the summer issue, too," Colette continued. "DIY treatments for sunburn!"

"You are a genius, Colette!" Paulina said, clapping her paws together. "The



summer issue can be all about having fun in the sun while staying **healthy**! Skin care, fur treatments, good food — the possibilities are endless!"

The friends found an empty table and sat down to eat. Pamela took a bite from an



"YUM!"

Violet tasted her **cheddar** broccoli soup and set her spoon down. "I just can't stop thinking about the summer issue," she said. "I like the healthy summer fun idea, but I have another thought. What was the most **important** event that happened this school year?"

"Professor Camille Ratyshnikov's arrival, of course!" Paulina replied with no besitation.

"The professor's new theater class certainly got everyone talking," Colette agreed.

Violet nodded. "Right! In my opinion, since the school year is ending, we should do a story on Professor Ratyshnikov and the new performing arts program!"

Violet started to explain her 1d. a in more detail. Colette pulled out a pen to jot

down their brainstorming notes.

None of them noticed that someone close by was eavesdropping! Connie and Zoe had sneakily found a table right behind the Thea Sisters, **HIDDEN** from view by a giant



plant. When they heard Violet mention the newspaper, their ears perked up.

Violet continued explaining her PLAN.

"We could start by interviewing the professors in the new Performing arts department. Then we could describe how a show is set up and what goes on behind the curtains. We could even explain how important the stage design, costumes, and

"That's enough material to fill ten summer issues!" Pam cried. "If you want, I could be your photographer."

Paulina kissed Violet on the cheek. "This will be the best summer issue yet!"

Zoe listened to these last words and at Connie. "Their summer issue suggestion is the best idea since SLICED CHEESE... but they won't

be the ones who take credit for it!" Zoe whispered.

The two mice grabbed their trays and **hurried** off to find Ruby. On their way out of the cafeteria, they bumped into their friend Alicia and quickly filled her in.

"Why, that's **genius!**" Alicia exclaimed.
"We have to let Ruby know."



nicky gets Suspicious

After listening to Connie and Zoe's report, Ruby was quiet for a few moments. "A Special issue on Ratyshnikov's new program," she said. "The Thea Sisters came up with a really wonderful idea!"

Connie, Zoe, and Alicia exchanged confused glances. Was Ruby really complimenting the Thea Sisters?

Hmmm ..

put them at ease. "Too bad they don't have enough style to do this idea justice." She put her snout in the air and sniffed.

"But the Thea Sisters came up with the idea, so they'll be the ones who get to be in charge of the special issue, right?" Alicia asked.

Ruby glared at the mouseling. "Don't worry about that! I already know how I'm going to that little problem . . ."

While Ruby was busy plotting a takeover of the **SUMMER ISSUE**, the Thea Sisters were still in the cafeteria, waiting for Nicky to return from lifeguarding.

"There's our rescue mouse!" cried **Colette**, looking up from her notes.

"I'm exhausted!" Nicky said, **Slumping** into a chair. "I had a great time, but the beach got really crowded." She took a bite of the grilled cheese sandwich she'd picked up. It was her favorite — Brie and green apple.

"Did we miss anything after we left?" Paulina asked.

"You'll never guess who came to the beach!" Nicky said with a twinkle in her eyes.

"Who?" they all chorused together.

"The headmaster!" Nicky finally revealed. She giggled at her friends' **@m@zed** expressions.

"I can't believe it! He **NEVER** goes to the beach!" Pamela said.

"Professor Ratyshnikov talked him into going," Nicky continued. "She even got him to play PaddleBall with her on the beach. You wouldn't believe how good Professor Ratyshnikov is!"

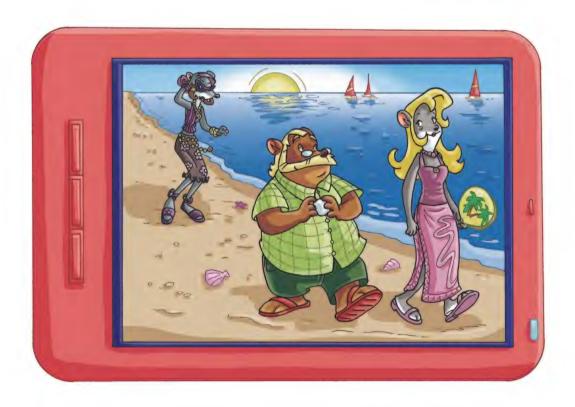
"I wish I could have seen them play!" Colette said.

"You're in luck!" Nicky pulled her phone

out of her **P2CKet** and showed her friends the screen. "I took a picture!"

The mouselets peered at Nicky's phone, amused.

"This picture should be on the FRONT
PAGE of the summer issue!" Paulina teased.



"I wish!" Pamela laughed. "Imagine the headline!"

HEADMASTER HAS A BALL AT THE BEACH!

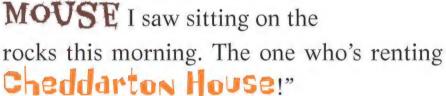
Violet scrolled through the other images on Nicky's phone. "Who is this?" she asked, stopping on a picture of someone in a **FLOWERED** skirt.

Nicky squinted at the image. "That's some rodent from out of town. She was asking everyone lots of questions. She wanted to know if anyone had seen a **newcomer** to the island with short blonde hair."

"What a coincidence!" Paulina said. "This morning on the bus, I overheard someone else asking about the same person!"

"Who do you think they're looking for?" Pam wondered.

"I actually think I might know," Nicky said. "It must be the same mysterious blonde





RUBY'S FABUMOUSE

The next morning, the Thea Sisters went to the newspaper meeting with a long list of notes. They had stayed up late brainstorming and couldn't wait to present their ideas to the others.

Tanja welcomed them with a triumphant "Great news, team! Ruby came up with a marvemouse idea last night!" she exclaimed. "She suggested we make the summer issue all about Professor Ratyshnikov's new performing arts department! What do you think?"

The Thea Sisters couldn't Squeak a word.

Violet finally found her voice. "It's a



Fabumouse idea. We would love to help Ruby work on it." Violet suspected Ruby had stolen their idea, but she didn't want to accuse her without proof.

"We'll find a **little** something for you to do," Ruby said, smirking.

"There's plenty of work, mouselets." Tanja clapped her paws together.

The Thea Sisters exchanged disappointed glances as they took their seats, tails drooping. Somehow, Ruby had figured out their big idea for the summer issue — and now she was going to be in charge of handing out all the assignments!

Later that **afternoon**, the friends went back to **Seashell Beach** to cheer themselves up. There, they filled Nicky in on what she had missed.

"This stinks worse than ald string

Ruby ruin the summer issue for us. I'm sure we can find a way to **WOPK** with her."

"Ruby or no Ruby, I need a swim!" Pam declared.

The Thea Sisters headed to the **Wotter**, and Nicky went back to her duties. Peering through her **BINOCULARS**, she glimpsed something moving outside Cheddarton House. The odd tourists from



the previous day were lurking outside the gates!

"I would love to know what those two cheese curds are up to," she **mumbled**.

A commotion on the beach brought Nicky's attention back to her friends. She could tell that the team selections for the volleyball rematch were in full swing. Yesterday's game had been so much fun



TEAM PROFESSOR!

that now everyone wanted to play! It was difficult to narrow it down, but Craig and Professor Plotfur managed to choose two teams of six players each. The game got started, and the professors took an early lead.

"Come on, mouselets!" Pam cheered.

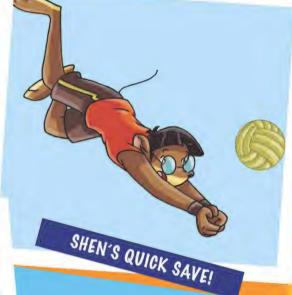
"Don't let the professors FIFT your cheddar!"



TEAM STUDENT!

PROFESSOR SPARKLE SPIKES!







CRAIG'S KICK!



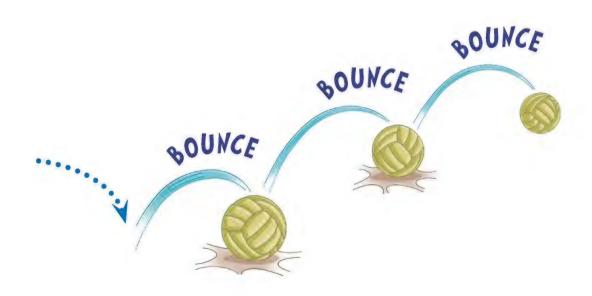


The PLAYERS from both teams gave it their best, until disaster struck. SLAM!

Craig failed to stop a **spike**. He tried desperately to keep the ball from hitting the sand in front of him, and he ended up kicking it accidentally.

The ball bounced along the ground and disappeared behind some rocks. A moment later, a shriek rang out.

"OUCH!"





A mysterious mouse

Professor Sparkle ran to see who had been hit as Nicky watched.

"That's the MYSTERIOUS mouse from yesterday!" Nicky exclaimed.



The blow from the ball had knocked off the blonde mouse's hat, and she was rubbing her sore head. Nicky could finally see her Face

for the first time. *I think I've seen her before*, Nicky thought.

At first, the blonde mouse looked angry. But when she saw Professor Sparkle walking toward her to apologize, she quickly jammed her HAT back on her head and





darted away from the beach.

Professor Sparkle came back with the volleyball, shrugging.

In a rush to started up a dangerous route back to her cottage. Worried, Nicky called to her friends. "Catch up to that mouse! She doesn't know about the WASHED-OUT path!"

The mouselets immediately ran after the stranger, waving their arms and shouting

at her to stop. But the mouse kept going.

The blonde mouse had begun **climbing** the rocky path that led from the beach to Cheddarton House. At first glance, the route looked **Safe**, but it dropped off steeply after the first turn.

"COME BACK!" Colette cried.

"IT'S DANGEROUS UP THERE!" Violet added.

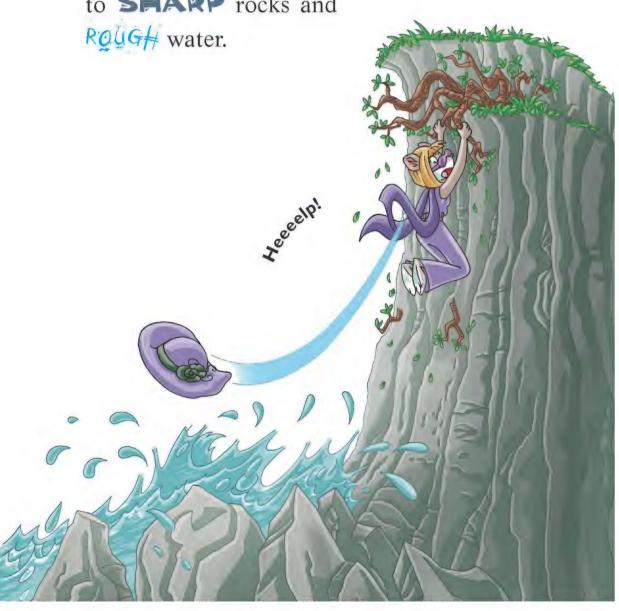
But the stranger kept walking. "Leave me alone!" she yelled back, her snout in the air.

Colette and Violet waved more frantically—the blonde mouse had reached the most dangerous spot. She was too **DISTRAGTED** to notice the trouble she was in.

"I'm sorry, but I'm not giving any interviews — **HEEEELP!**"

The MYSTERIOUS mouse slipped

off the path! She managed to grab a bush, but her feet dangled high above the shore. Nothing stood between her and a steep drop to SHARP rocks and





THE THEA SISTERS TO THE RESCUE!

Violet and Colette **RUSHED** to help the stranded stranger. Each mouse grabbed an arm, but they weren't **able** to drag her up.



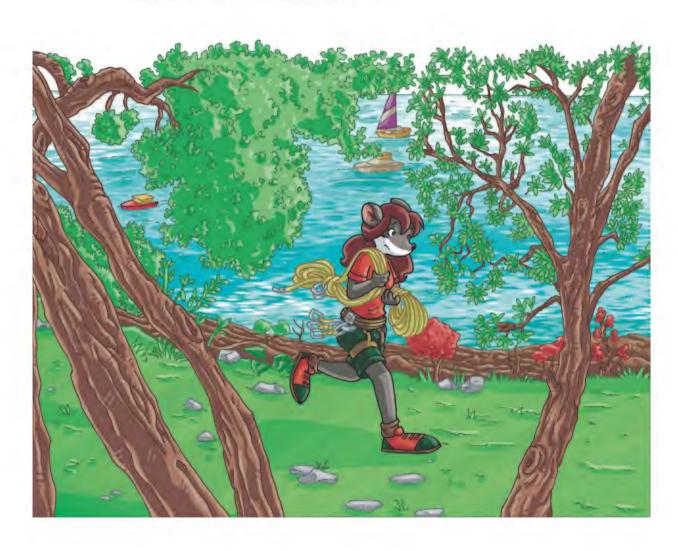
the stranger shouted again. "I'm scared of heights!"

"Try not to panic, and don't look down!" Violet said. "Help is on the way."

Nicky didn't waste any time. She ran to the **Toolshed**, grabbed two strong **Topes**, two harnesses, and a couple of carabiners. Then she took off running up a shortcut to reach her friends.

When Nicky found them, she was panting. "Hold on! I need to set up my rope."

Expert mountaineer that she was, Nicky knew how to make strong knets. She secured her rope and started climbing down to the blonde mouse.





"I'm going to put a harness on you," she explained. "That will make pulling you up as easy as spreading **cream cheese!**"

The blonde mouse couldn't even squeak. She stared in horror at the water below her and started **trembling** like a cheese wrapper. If Violet and Colette let go of her now, she would certainly fall!

Just then Paulina and Pamela arrived on the cliff, too. They had seen Nicky dash off with



ropes, so they stopped the volleyball game to follow their friend.

Nicky tossed up the rope that she'd tied to the tourist's harness. Paulina caught it, and the four friends standing on the upper edge of the cliff started **PULLING** with all their strength.

"Come on, mouselets!" Pam urged them. "We can do it!"

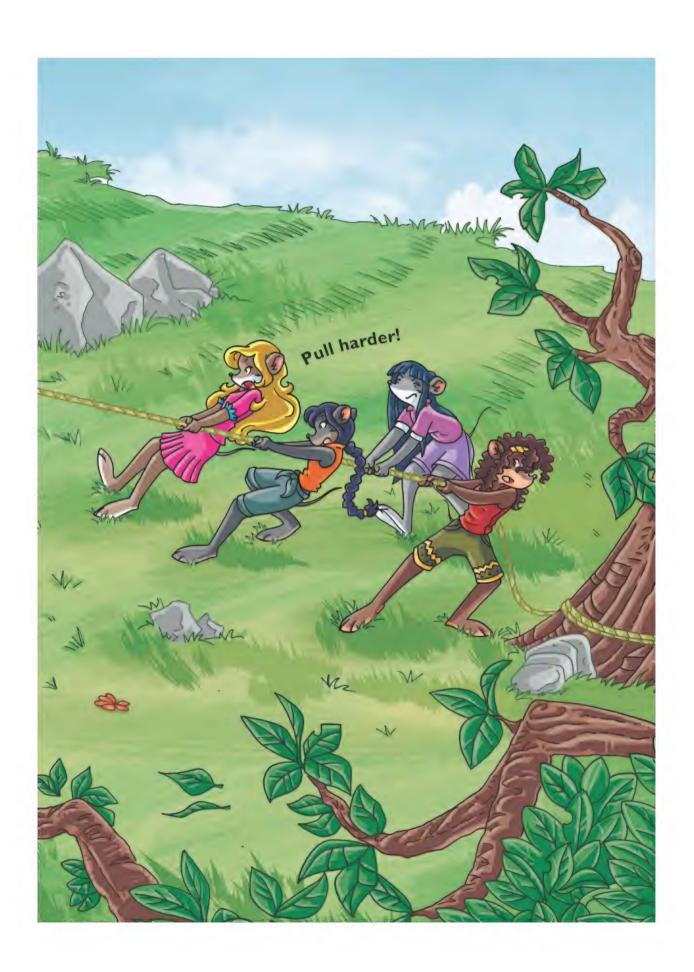
In no time at all, the mysterious mouse had her back on solid ground!

"Thank you," she whispered, regaining her **breath**. "You **Saved** my life! Those rocks would have made Swiss cheese out of me if you hadn't rescued me."

Violet stared at her. "You're Anna Winmouse!" she blurted out. "The famouse editor in chief of COSMOUSE, the most prestigious fashion magazine that's ever existed!"

"Of course!" Nicky smacked her **forehead**. "That's where I've seen you before. Your picture is in the latest issue of *Cosmouse*!"





The editor in chief looked **embarrassed**. "That's me. But if you only just recognized me... does this mean you aren't reporters?"

"We hope we will be someday!"

Paulina confessed. "But right now we're just students at Mouseford Academy."

"Is that why you ran away?" asked Colette.

"You thought we were reporters looking for a scoop?"



HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

Anna Winmouse put her sunglasses back on. "My behavior must have seemed really strange to you!" she said. "But the press



has been terrible recently. The more I try to **GET ANNI** from reporters, the pushier they get!" The famouse editor shook her head. "When I SAW you and heard you shouting, I thought I had been discovered!"

"Unfortunately, I think someone really has found you," Nicky said. "Yesterday two STRANGE mice were



asking a lot of questions, and today I saw them **@utside** Cheddarton House!"

"Oh no!" Anna Winmouse groaned and twisted her tail between her paws.

"Wait," Pam said. "Why don't we continue this conversation in the shade with a nice cold soda?"

Nicky had to go back to her LIFEGUARD duties, but the **2THCRS** headed toward a secluded inlet on the beach.

"I'll keep watch with the binoculars," Nicky promised.

Sitting in the shade with a cold soda in her paws, Anna Winmouse explained her problem to the girls. "Managing a fashion magazine requires a lot of hard work. You have to assign stories, choose the best articles, pick out the most beautiful pictures . . ." She trailed off. "But

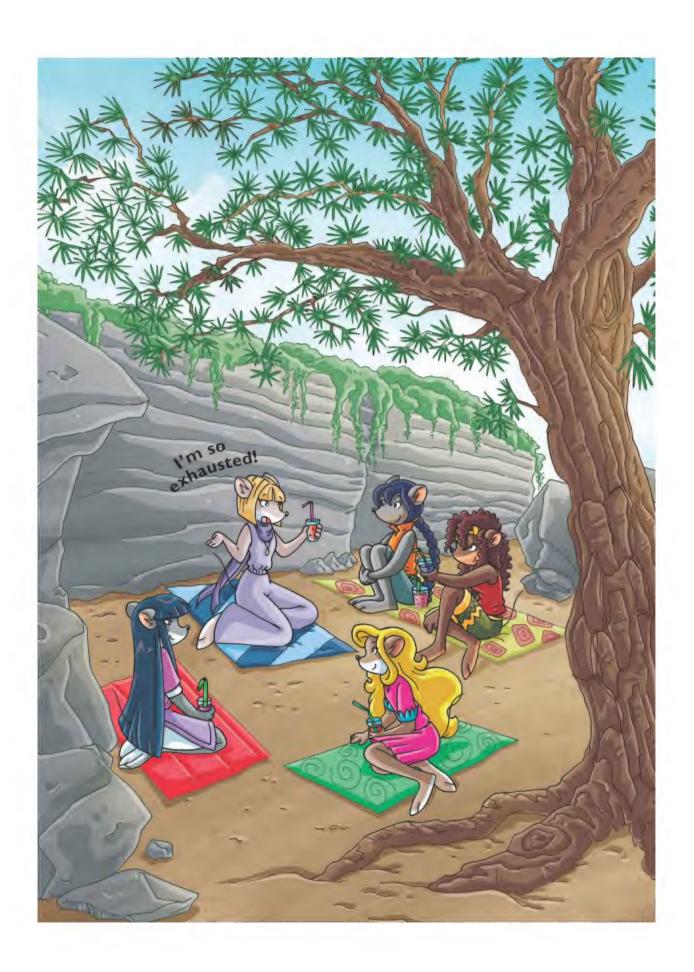


there's more! The magazine has been so successful that everybody has been asking me for **interviews** and **advice**. My life has gotten so **busy** that I don't have time for what I love most: researching the newest fashion **TRENDS** and sharing them with the public."

Violet nodded. "Sometimes success can be stressful!" she agreed.

Anna Winmouse finished her Soda and continued her story. "A couple of weeks ago, I decided to get away and in a quiet, out-of-the-way place. When I found Cheddarton House, I thought it would be perfect! As soon as I arrived on Whale Island, its COZY atmosphere immediately made me feel better. I've already come up with lots of rewides for the magazine!"

"You found fashion inspiration here?"





Colette asked, her eyes **Shiming**.

Anna Winmouse Smiled at her. "With this fabumouse landscape, of course!" But then the smile disappeared from her snout. "I need quiet and privacy to be able to focus.

If the reporters don't stop harassing me, the magazine is doomed!"



THE PERFECT HIDEOUT

Paulina stood up. "There's only one place on the island where we know you'll be left alone — MOUSEFORD ACADEMY!"

"The academy?" Anna Winmouse asked, surprised.

"Paulina is right," Pam agreed. "Our headmaster would never allow reporters inside!"

"We should go talk to him right away!" Colette said. She and Pam leaped to their feet. They stretched their paws out to help up Anna Winmouse.

"Thanks so much, mouselets!" Anna Winmouse looked relieved. She was very to follow them back to school.



When the group got back to Mouseford, they didn't have any trouble persuading Headmaster Octavius de Mousus to let Anna Winmouse stay.

"How could we refuse the famouse editor of *Cosmouse*? I completely understand your need to work in peace," he said, feeling **sympathetic**. "Nobody will bother you here."

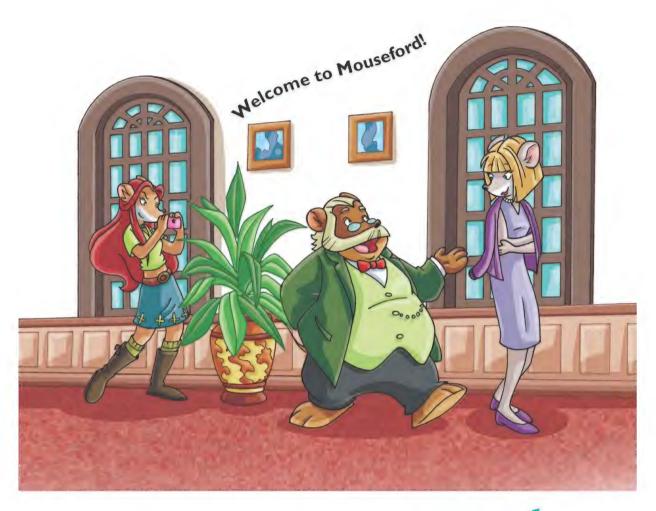
Then he rushed off to arrange a quiet room for her.

But the arrival of the Thea Sisters' new guest did not go unnoticed . . .

Ruby had immediately spotted the Thea Sisters and a mysterious blonde rodent entering the headmaster's office. Ruby had lingered next to the headmaster's slightly open door and heard Pamela ask for an autograph.

Ruby thought. She quickly snapped a picture of the stranger with her phone and texted it to Alan, her very efficient assistant. Ruby just had to find out who she was.

Alan's reply came quickly. "That's Anna Winmouse — the famouse editor of *Cosmouse*," Ruby read. "RUMOR has it that she's doing TOP SECRET research for the magazine."



Just then the office door pened, and Ruby saw the Thea Sisters walk out with Anna. Ruby flattened herself into an alcove so they wouldn't spot her.

This is an amazing opportunity, Ruby thought. I could interview her for the summer issue — and get her to endorse Plashyfur brand products in Cosmouse!



I could even model for the photo shoot. Ruby grinned. This is my chance to be the big cheese!





Now that the headmaster had allowed her to stay at **MOUSEFORD**, Anna Winmouse felt **Energized**. The academy was the perfect place to collect new ideas — she felt like a brand-new rodent!

In order to get to work, though, she needed her CDMPUTER. But she wasn't sure how she could retrieve it from her cottage without being noticed by the two **Snoops** lurking outside Cheddarton House. Luckily for her, the Thea Sisters were happy to HELP!

They called Nicky, who was still at the beach, for an update on the reporters.

Nicky looked through her binoculars.

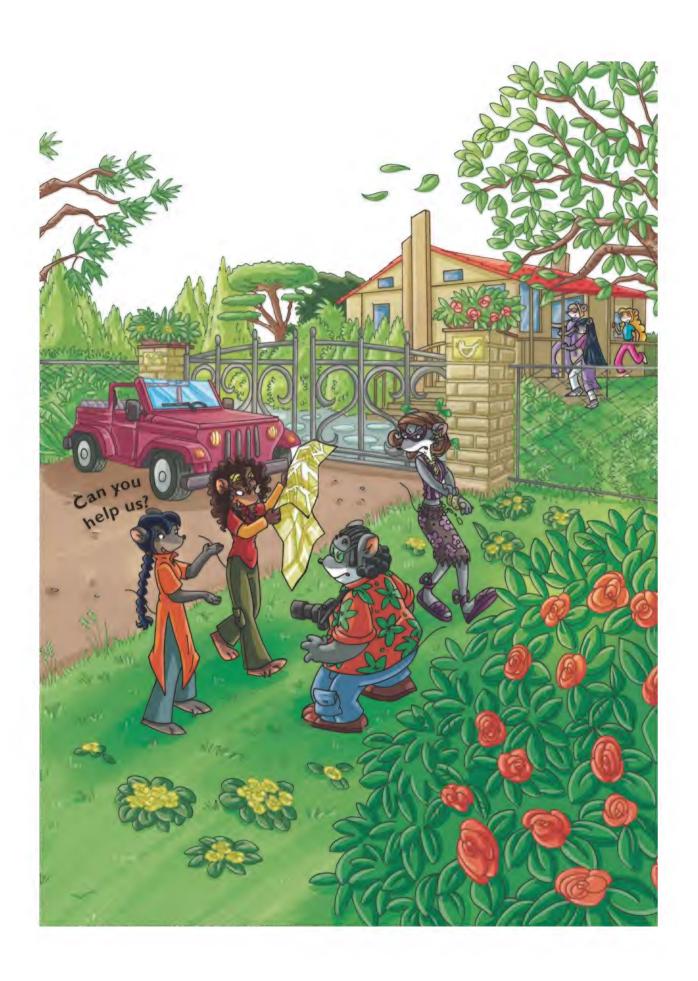


"I can see them! They're hiding behind a bush, waiting for Anna to come back."

Pam came up with a foolproof plan to outsmart the reporters. "We'll take my **IPPP**. Once we get there, Paulina and I will keep them busy. In the meantime, the rest of you can **SNeak** into the cottage and grab everything Anna needs."

The Thea Sisters and Anna Winmouse piled into Pam's jeep. Just before they reached the Cottage, Pam stopped to let the others off.

Then she and Paulina drove up to the cottage GATES, stopping in front of the bush where the two snoops were hiding. "Yoo-hoo," Pam called to them. "Can you help us figure out where we are?" She opened up a MAP. "We got all Lucied"





While Pam had the reporters distracted with her map, Anna, Violet, and Colette **SNUCK** into the back of the cottage. They grabbed Anna's computer and crept back out — without the reporters noticing anything!



Half an hour later, Anna Winmouse and the Thea Sisters were back at Mouseford, safe and sound.

"That was more bur than a cheese-tasting party!"

Anna exclaimed as they walked to her room. She had tears in her eyes from **laughing** so much.

When the group got to Anna's door, however, a **SURPRISE** was waiting for them. Anna had barely put her hand on the doorknob when it was flung open, revealing Ruby standing inside!

"Welcome back!" Ruby cried, grabbing

Anna by the arm. "You can go now," she said **coldiy** to the Thea Sisters. "I can take care of our guest now."

The Thea Sisters were speechless.

"WOW!" Pam finally exclaimed, poking her snout inside. "I had no idea the guest rooms at Mouseford were this Fancy!"

"Usually they're not!" Ruby said, looking pleased. "I **took the liberty** of making a few upgrades."



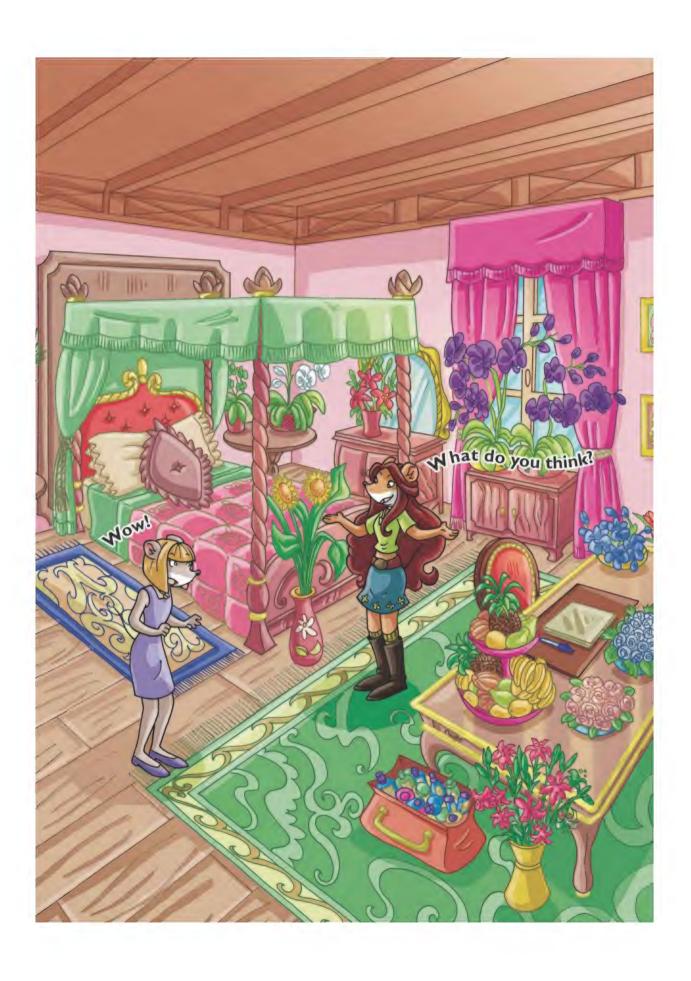
The room had a **FOUR-POSTER** bed, heavy velvet curtains, and a huge **WOODEN** table topped with a big basket of fresh fruit. Large bouquets of **bright** flowers filled the air with perfume.

Ruby invited Anna Winmouse to make herself comfortable. Then she hurried to close the door, leaving the Thea Sisters standing openmouthed in the hallway.

Anna Winmouse collapsed into a **soft** armchair, tired from her long day.

Seeing Anna look so relaxed, Ruby **decided** this was her chance to make her big pitch. *Anna is sure to be impressed by my ideas!* Ruby thought.

Ruby reached into a huge bag she'd brought with her. It was filled with **lotions**, **shappoos**, **makeup**, and **perfume samples**—all Flashyfur brand!



"I just love **Flashyfur**, don't you?" Ruby said. Without waiting for an answer, she opened a shampoo bottle and waved it under Anna's **snout**. "Smell the **strawberries** in this shampoo — you can almost taste them! Surely your *Cosmouse* readers would love to read about it!"

Anna Winmouse frowned. "I really appreciate your welcome, but I'm going to take a now." She got up from her chair, took Ruby's arm, and led her toward the door.

"There are just a few more things I thought you'd like to see," Ruby continued, undeterred. She reached into her bag and pulled out a folder of photographs. "I would be the perfect mouse to model Flashyfur, don't you think?"

Anna Winmouse smiled sweetly, opened

her door, and gently nudged Ruby over the threshold. "Good-bye. Thanks for the flowers," Anna said as she closed her door, leaving Ruby standing in the **ACADEMY** hallway.

"This is *not* over," Ruby grumbled to herself.

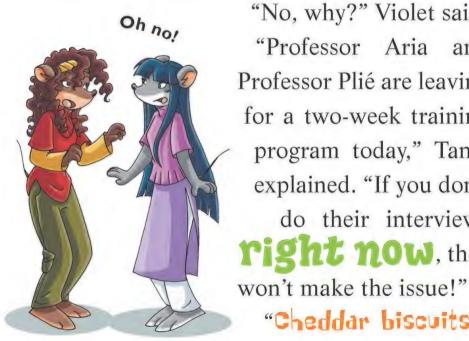
The next day, newspaper duties were keeping everyone very busy. Since Ruby was in charge of the SPECIAL summer issue, she was in her element bossing around the other mouselets. She kept making Paulina

redesign the same page layouts **over and over** again, and she had Pam and Violet rewrite all their interview questions for the professors.

"I'm going to be here awhile," Paulina whispered to Violet and Pam. "You might as well go eat lunch while you can!"

They took her advice and headed off to the dining hall. Just as they were getting in line, Tanja rushed up to them, looking worried.

"Have you done your interviews yet?" she asked.



"No, why?" Violet said. "Professor Aria and Professor Plié are leaving for a two-week training program today," Tanja explained. "If you don't do their interviews right now, they

"Cheddar biscuits!" Violet cried.



"But Ruby had us rewrite all the questions!" Pamela exclaimed.

Tanja shook her head. "I don't know why she didn't tell you."

Violet and Pam THanked Tanja and rushed off to find the professors. It was just like Ruby not to warn them that

How much longer is this going to take?



their interviewees were going out of town!

The rest of the THEA SISTERS were also running into trouble. Ruby had enlisted her Ruby Crew to keep them busy with fake assignments so she could have Anna Winmouse ALL to herself!

Connie kept an eye on Colette, who Ruby had doing research for the summer issue in the **library**. Zoe stuck close to Nicky, who was looking through Professor Van Kraken's DVDs for a short article on **summer** sea life. At this rate, the Thea Sisters would have their **which** full all day!





Once the Thea Sisters were **distracted**, Ruby could dedicate the entire afternoon to befriending Anna Winmouse. As soon as they were friends, Anna would certainly want Ruby to model Flashyfur in *Cosmouse*.

If I can also persuade Anna to do an exclusive interview for the summer issue, that's even better! Ruby thought. This will be the best issue yet!

Ruby searched online for clues about the famouse editor. Every time Ruby thought she'd learned something useful, she rushed off to try it on Anna.

"Anna Winmouse loves **chocolate**!" declared an article about **COSMOUSE'S**

editor in chief. So Ruby showed up at Anna's door with an enormouse tray of delicious candies.

"Anna Winmouse is a fabumouse **golfer!**" trumpeted another headline. So Ruby donned her cutest golf gear and invited Anna to join her for a round.

Anna Winmouse barely had a moment to herself all afternoon because Ruby was constantly knocking on her





door. Anna was almost at her wit's end by dinnertime.

Ruby had discovered that Anna Winmouse was a real **foodie**, so she planned to offer her an elaborate evening meal. At six o'clock, Ruby arrived at Anna's room with Jacques Fondue, her mother's French CHEF. A long line of waiters followed him, pushing carts carrying five-star dishes.

Everyone is in a good mood after a good meal, Ruby thought.

Anna Winmouse did look PELICHTEP as an array of cheddar fondue, Stilton soufflé, and Parmesan crisps was placed in FRONT of her. "It all smells so marvemouse, Ruby!" Anna sighed and clasped her paws together.

Ruby's plan didn't go quite as well as she'd hoped, though. Anna Winmouse spent the whole meal talking to the chef. Ruby

couldn't get one Squeak in!

Ruby was **furious** as she slunk out of the room after dessert, her tail between her legs. "Cheese and crackers!" she hissed. "I still haven't even shown her my

But Ruby wasn't ready to give up yet...





Over the next few days, the Thea Sisters stayed busy with newspaper duties. After a week of hard work, they finally stopped by Anna Winmouse's room to take a break and say hello.

"We thought you might like to see the observatory," Violet said. "We can take a **Scenic walk** through the woods. You can see the entire island from up there!"

"That sounds great!" Anna replied, turning her computer off and grabbing a STRAW HAT. "I could use a break to stretch my tail!"

Ruby was lurking near Anna Winmouse's room when the THEA SISTERS made their



suggestion. When the group headed out, Ruby ran to call the Ruby Crew. The Thea Sisters' outing had given her an idea!

The walk to the observatory was a little long, but the ocean views were SPECTACULAR. The group paused at every scenic overlook to take it all in.

"That ocean! Not to be cheesy, but it makes me feel so alive!" Anna exclaimed.

When Anna and the Thea Sisters finally reached the top of FALCON'S PEAK, the sun had begun to set.

"There's the observatory!" Pamela called, pointing to the **DOME** up above.

They hadn't reached the entrance yet when a series of bright lights exploded around them.



Three reporters had jumped out from the surrounding bushes and were **taking photographs**! They blinded the Thea Sisters and Anna Winmouse with all their **flashbules**.

A barrage of questions followed.

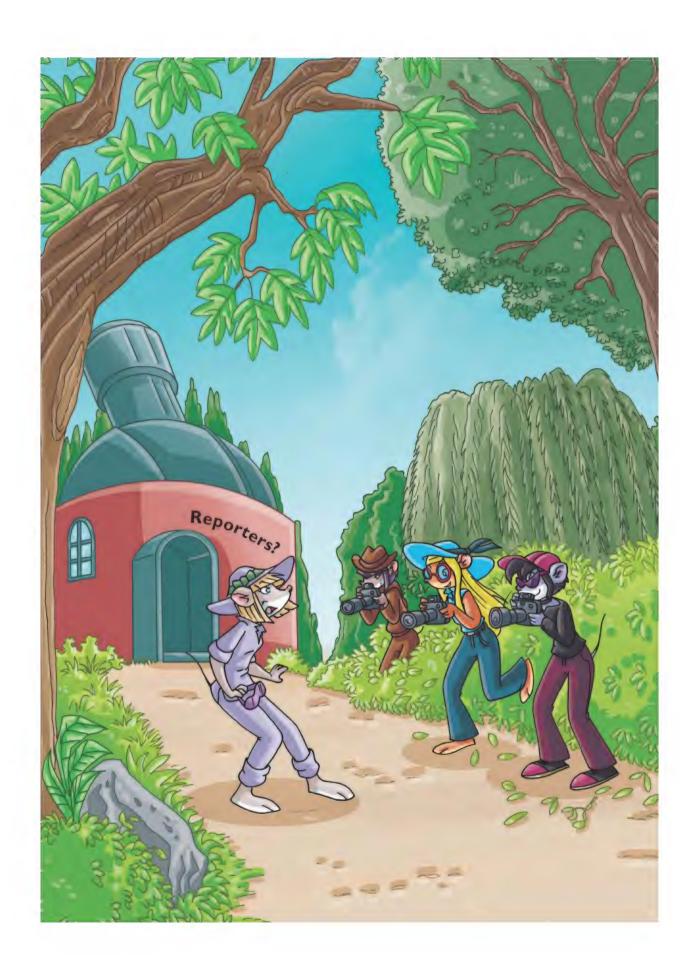
"Why are you hiding out at Mouseford Academy?"

"Is it true you're quitting *Cosmouse*?" Anna Winmouse was **speechless**.

Suddenly, a car **ROARED** up the path and skidded to a stop. The passenger door opened wide. **IT WAS RUBY!**

"Get in — quick!" Ruby urged Anna.

Eager to escape, Anna leaped in, and the car **Took off** down the winding road. The reporters piled into their **pink** car and took off after them.





SURPRISE PARTY

In a moment, the Thea Sisters were all along.

"Holey cheese!" Pamela exclaimed, rubbing her eyes. "Those Flashbules hurt my eyes!"

"How did they know that we would be here?" Colette wondered.

Paulina shook her head, confused. "I don't know."

"This might **SOUND CRAZY**, but one of those reporters sounded really familiar to me." Violet said.

Violet had a pretty good HUNCH . . .

After finding out about the Thea Sisters' planned observatory trip, Ruby had

immediately gathered the Ruby Crew. She had them disguise themselves as reporters and wait for Anna outside the observatory. That way, Ruby could arrive just in the MCK OF TIME to save the day!

In Ruby's car, Anna Winmouse started to worry about the Thea Sisters. "We have to go back for them!" she insisted.

"They're fine," Ruby assured her. "There's no need to get your tail in a twist." She sped toward the beach and stopped the car in front of a large, stylish boat: Rebecca Flashyfur's YACHT.



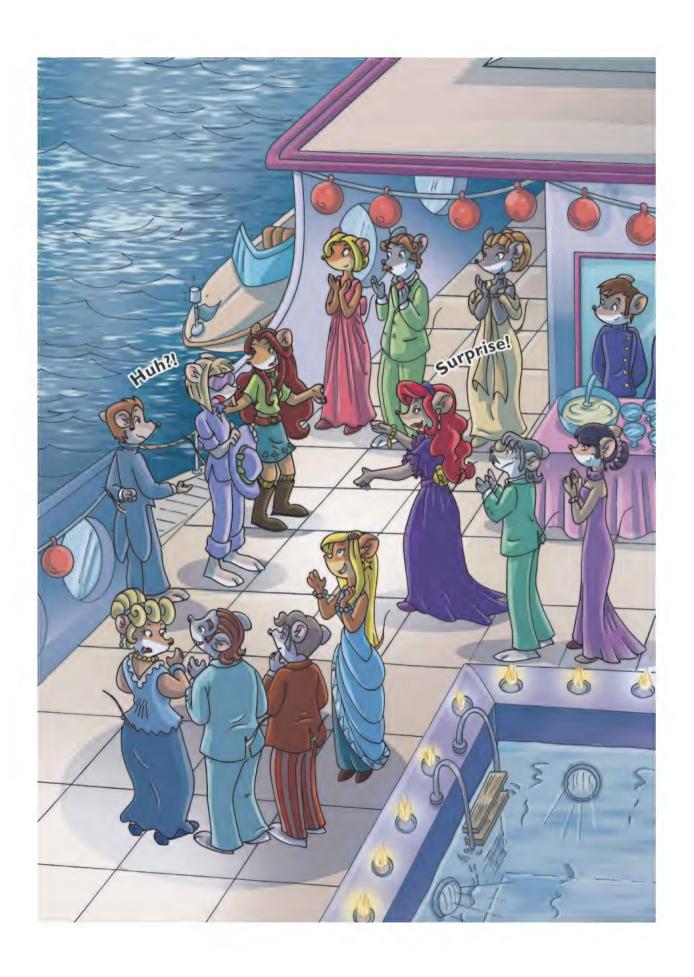
"Let's hide on board my mom's yacht!" Ruby called, **climbing** out of the car. "It's okay. She's a **BIG FAN** of yours!" Ruby said when Anna Winmouse hesitated.

The quiet, darkened yacht seemed safe enough, so Anna followed Ruby out of the car. But as soon as Anna set a paw on board, all the lights came on, and a round of applause erupted.

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

"Welcome to my yacht!" Rebecca Flashyfur called, sweeping over in a shimmering gown. "You're the **big cheese** this evening at my exclusive Flashyfur party!"

Anna Winmouse was very **embarrassed** by all the fuss. She thanked Ruby's mother for her hospitality but asked Ruby to drive



her back to the **ACADEMY**.

"I'm not feeling well," she said apologetically.

Ruby was **FURIOUS!** How rude! she thought on the way back to school. I talked my mom into throwing that **Party** just for her!



The next morning, Anna Winmouse met up with the THEA SISTERS in the academy library.

"Why don't we try taking a relaxing trip again?" she asked them. "What do you say about a day at coday is the day!

Seashell Beach,

mouselets?"

Unfortunately

for them, Ruby was once again listening to their **PLANS** for the day.

Ruby crouched behind a nearby **BOOKSHELF** and

smiled. Today was the day she was finally going to get an interview out of Anna Winmouse! A FLASHYFUR NEVER GIVES UP! she thought.

"You'll either talk to me," Ruby whispered, "or face a crowd of crazy **reporters**!"



ESCAPE ON THE HIGH SEAS

That afternoon at Seashell Beach, clouds moved **quickly** across the sky, and the waves crashed onto the sand. Nicky watched them with concern.

"Don't go out too far!" she called to the **swimmers**. "I think a storm might be coming!"

Most rodents stayed out of the rough water, though, preferring to read or play games on the sand.

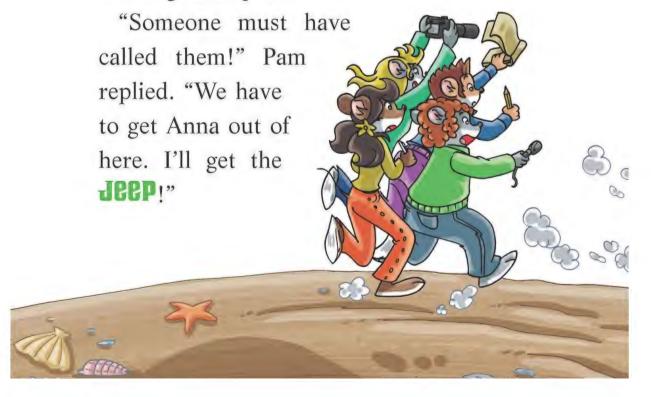
Anna Winmouse was enjoying the **©GEGN breeze** from under an umbrella. Her peace and quiet didn't last long, though. She sat up suddenly when she heard loud voices.



"THERE SHE IS!" "ARE YOU SURE?" "IT'S ANNA WINMOUSE!" "SHE WON'T GET AWAY THIS TIME!"

Anna Winmouse turned to see at least a dozen reporters charging at her!

"How did they find us?" Colette **YELLED**, running to help Anna.





"Ms. Winmouse!" she heard someone yell.
"This way!"

Pam turned around and saw Ruby and a muscular rodent invite Anna to get on a **pedalboat**.

"Not you again!" Anna cried. But going with Ruby seemed to be the best option, so she JUMPCD on board.

"Trust me," Ruby reassured her. "With





Barry Burrata at the pedals, they'll never catch us!" Ruby tapped Barry's shoulder, and he started pedaling furiously.

Back onshore, the Thea Sisters quickly devised a plan to keep the reporters from spotting Anna on the boat.

Paulina grabbed the editor's iconic **STRAW HAT** from where she'd dropped it in the sand and climbed into Pam's jeep.

Colette pointed at her, shouting, "There is Anna Winmouse — she's **GETTING**ANNAY!"

The reporters immediately took off after Pam and Paulina as fast as their paws could take them.

In no time at all, the pedalboat carrying Anna Winmouse was far out to sea. Nicky tried to signal to Ruby and Anna to turn back, but they couldn't see her. Nicky blew



her lifeguarding whiste and waved at the pedalboat.

"Where are they going? The undertow is strong today — and they're not wearing life vests!" Nicky frowned. BLACK CLOUDS had started to gather overhead. A STORM was brewing.

ROUGH WATERS

The waves started to **toss** the pedalboat back and forth. Even though Barry was pedaling with all his might, the boat wasn't getting anywhere.

"Faster, you massive mozzarella!"
Ruby shouted. Suddenly, a LOUD
NOISE startled them.



CRACK!

The boat's RUDDER had broken — now there was no way to steer!

"What are we going to do?" Ruby cried. "The



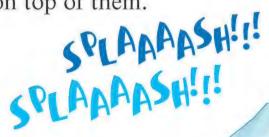
waves are going to make Swiss cheese out of us!"
For the first time since they'd set out, she looked worried.

"Let's not panic!"
Anna Winmouse said, clutching the side of the boat for support.
"Let's put on LIFE

VESTS; they should

be around here somewhere."

Barry opened the compartment that held the vests, but just then a gigantic **WGVe** crashed right on top of them.







WATERS

When the pedalboat recovered, they could see the life jackets floating among the waves, UNREACHABLE.

Barry looked scared. "I can't swim!" he sobbed.

Lucky for them, Nicky was on her way! She had Colette call the COAST GUARD, while she and Professor Sparkle pushed a lifeboat into the water.



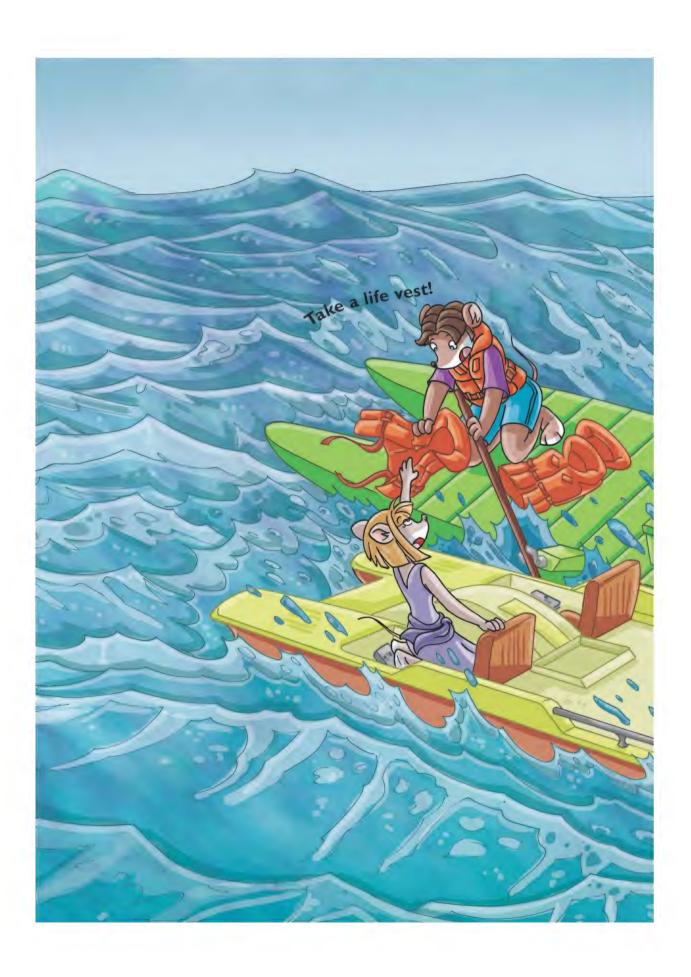


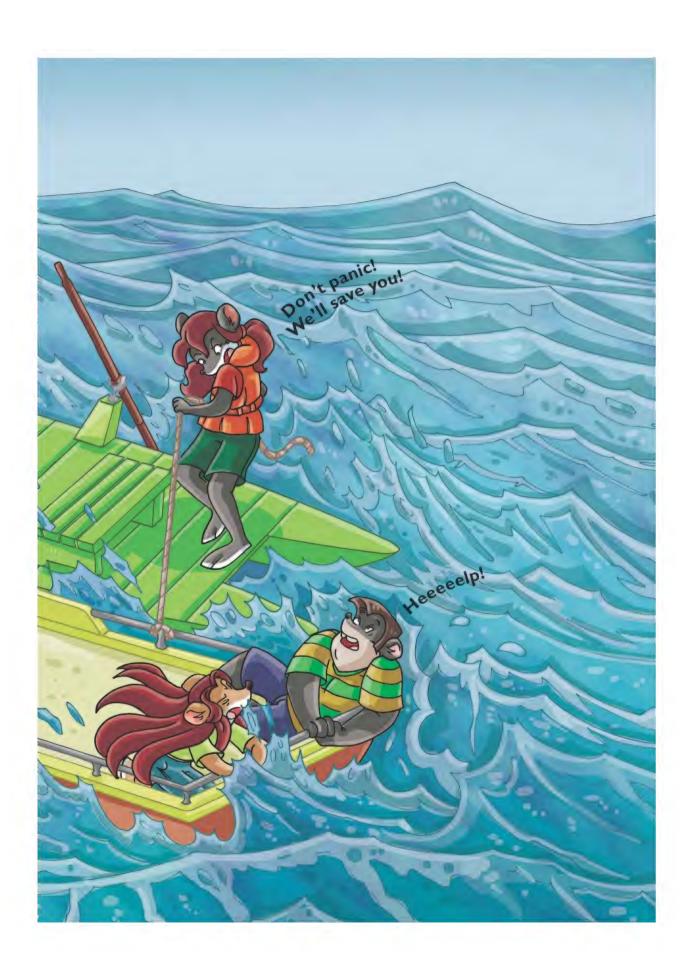
WATERS

Nicky and Professor Sparkle paddled fiercely through the rough sea. They cut through the waves like a warm cheese knife slicing through Gouda. "We'll help stabilize their boat and make sure it doesn't capsize before the coast guard arrives," Nicky explained as they got close to Anna and the others.

EASIER SAID THAN DONE!

The waves tossed the pedalboat up and down, but Nicky was finally able to tie a rope on to its railing. Hooked together, the boats were less likely to tip over.







A SNEAKY SWITCH

In the meantime, the reporters onshore had realized their mistake and returned to Seashell Beach. They watched the arrival of the coast guard boat intensely. Photographs of *Cosmouse's* editor in chief being **Rescued** from a boat accident would be front-page news all over the world. When the coast guard boat landed, all the cameras went off at the same time.



The first rodent down the steps of the **COAST GUARD** boat was Ruby, soggier than a slice of provolone left out in the rain.



Barry followed after her, happy to be on dry land. Everyone waited eagerly to see Anna Winmouse — but out came Nicky instead!

"Where is Anna?" wondered one of the reporters.

Ruby and Barry just Shrugged. The disappointed reporters began to pack up all their cameras and head back to the parking lot.

The Thea Sisters rushed up to Nicky, who had a small Smile on her face. She looked like a mouselet who had scored the LAST piece of cheese! She gathered her friends closely around her. "Anna is waiting for us in a nearby cove," she



whispered. "Professor Sparkle took her in the lifeguard boat so the **reporters** wouldn't see her."

"Sneaky!" Pam said.

The **THEA SISTERS** changed out of their wet clothes and then piled into Pam's jeep to go meet Anna Winmouse at the cove. They found Anna standing under the shade of a pavilion.

Surrounded by her new friends, the Thea Sisters, Anna Winmouse made a big announcement. "I have decided I will grant an **EXCLUSIVE** interview to one newspaper so that **EVERYONE** will stop harassing me."

"But how will you choose which one?" Nicky asked.

"Easy-cheesy! I want to be in the academy newspaper, of course!" Anna Winmouse cried. "It will make your SUMMER ISSUE



sell like cheese puffs!"

But Anna Winmouse wasn't finished. "I would also love to do a story on you mouselets in **COSMOUSE!**"

The Thea Sisters gasped, delighted. They all hugged Anna in thanks.

"My trip to Whale Island really has been inspirational," Anna said. "And no one has inspired me more than the Thea Sisters!"





Don't miss any of these Mouseford Academy adventures!



#1 Drama at Mouseford



#2 The Missing Diary



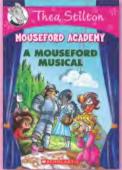
#3 Mouselets in Danger



#4 Dance Challenge



#5 The Secret Invention



#6 A Mouseford Musical



#7 Mice Take the Stage



#8 A Fashionable Mystery



Don't miss any of these exciting Thea Sisters adventures!



Thea Stilton and the Dragon's Code



Thea Stilton and the Mountain of Fire



Thea Stilton and the Ghost of the Shipwreck



Thea Stilton and the Secret City



Thea Stilton and the Mystery in Paris



Thea Stilton and the Cherry Blossom Adventure



Thea Stilton and the Star Castaways



Thea Stilton: Big Trouble in the Big Apple



Thea Stilton and the Ice Treasure



Thea Stilton and the Secret of the Old Castle



Thea Stilton and the Blue Scarab Hunt



Thea Stilton and the Prince's Emerald



Thea Stilton and the Mystery on the Orient Express



Thea Stilton and the Dancing Shadows



Thea Stilton and the Legend of the Fire Flowers



Thea Stilton and the Spanish Dance Mission



Thea Stilton and the Journey to the Lion's Den



Thea Stilton and the Great Tulip Heist



Thea Stilton and the Chocolate Sabotage



Thea Stilton and the Missing Myth



Thea Stilton and the Lost Letters



Thea Stilton and the Tropical Treasure



Be sure to read all of our magical special edition adventures!





THE KINGDOM OF FANTASY



THE QUEST FOR PARADISE:
THE RETURN TO THE KINGDOM OF FANTASY



VOYAGE:
THE THIRD ADVENTURE
IN THE KINGDOM
OF FANTASY



THE DRAGON
PROPHECY:
THE FOURTH ADVENTURE
IN THE KINGDOM
OF FANTASY



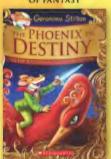
THE VOLCANO
OF FIRE:
THE FIFTH ADVENTURE
IN THE KINGDOM
OF FANTASY



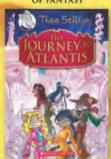
THE SEARCH FOR TREASURE: THE SIXTH ADVENTURE IN THE KINGDOM OF FANTASY



THE ENCHANTED CHARMS
THE SEVENTH ADVENTURE IN THE KINGDOM



THE PHOENIX
OF DESTINY:
AN EPIC KINGDOM OF
FANTASY ADVENTURE



THEA STILTON: THE JOURNEY TO ATLANTIS



THEA STILTON: THE SECRET OF THE FAIRIES



THEA STILTON: THE SECRET OF THE SNOW



THEA STILTON: THE CLOUD CASTLE



Be sure to read all my fabumouse adventures!



#1 Lost Treasure of the Emerald Eye



#2 The Curse of the Cheese Pyramid



#3 Cat and Mouse in a Haunted House



#4 I'm Too Fond of My Fur!



#5 Four Mice Deep in the Jungle



#6 Paws Off, Cheddarface!



#7 Red Pizzas for a Blue Count



#8 Attack of the Bandit Cats



#9 A Fabumouse Vacation for Geronimo



#10 All Because of a Cup of Coffee



#11 It's Halloween, You 'Fraidy Mouse!



#12 Merry Christmas, Geronimo!



#13 The Phantom of the Subway



#14 The Temple of the Ruby of Fire



#15 The Mona Mousa Code



#16 A Cheese-Colored Camper



#17 Watch Your Whiskers, Stilton!



#18 Shipwreck on the Pirate Islands



#19 My Name Is Stilton, Geronimo Stilton



#20 Surf's Up, Geronimo!





#22 The Secret of Cacklefur Castle



A Christmas Tale



#23 Valentine's Day Disaster



#24 Field Trip to Niagara Falls



#25 The Search for Sunken Treasure



#26 The Mummy with No Name



#27 The Christmas Toy Factory



#28 Wedding Crasher



#29 Down and Out Down Under



#30 The Mouse Island Marathon



#31 The Mysterious Cheese Thief



Christmas Catastrophe



#32 Valley of the Giant Skeletons



#33 Geronimo and the Gold Medal Mystery



#34 Geronimo Stilton, Secret Agent



#35 A Very Merry Christmas



#36 Geronimo's Valentine



#37 The Race Across America



#38 A Fabumouse School Adventure



#39 Singing Sensation



#40 The Karate Mouse



#41 Mighty Mount Kilimanjaro



#42 The Peculiar Pumpkin Thief



#43 I'm Not a Supermouse!





#45 Save the White Whale!



#46 The Haunted Castle



#47 Run for the Hills, Geronimo!



#48 The Mystery in Venice



#49 The Way of the Samurai



#50 This Hotel Is Haunted!



#51 The Enormouse Pearl Heist



#52 Mouse in Space!



#53 Rumble in the Jungle



#54 Get into Gear, Stilton!



#55 The Golden Statue Plot



#56 Flight of the Red Bandit



The Hunt for the Golden Book



#57 The Stinky Cheese Vacation



#58 The Super Chef Contest



#59 Welcome to Moldy Manor



The Hunt for the Curious Cheese



#60 The Treasure of Easter Island



#61 Mouse House Hunter



#62 Mouse Overboard!



Don't miss my journeys through time!









I, Geronimo Stilton, have a lot of mouse friends, but none as spooky as my friend CREEPELLA VON CACKLEFUR! She is an enchanting and MYSTERIOUS mouse with a pet bat named Bitewing. YIKES! I'm a real 'fraidy mouse, but even I think CREEPELLA and her family are ANNIOUS fascinating. I can't wait for you to read all about CREEPELLA in these fa-mouse-ly funny and spectacularly spooky tales!



meet Geronimo Stiltonix

He is a spacemouse — the Geronimo
Stilton of a parallel universe! He is
captain of the spaceship *MouseStar 1*.
While flying through the cosmos, he visits
distant planets and meets crazy aliens.
His adventures are out of this world!

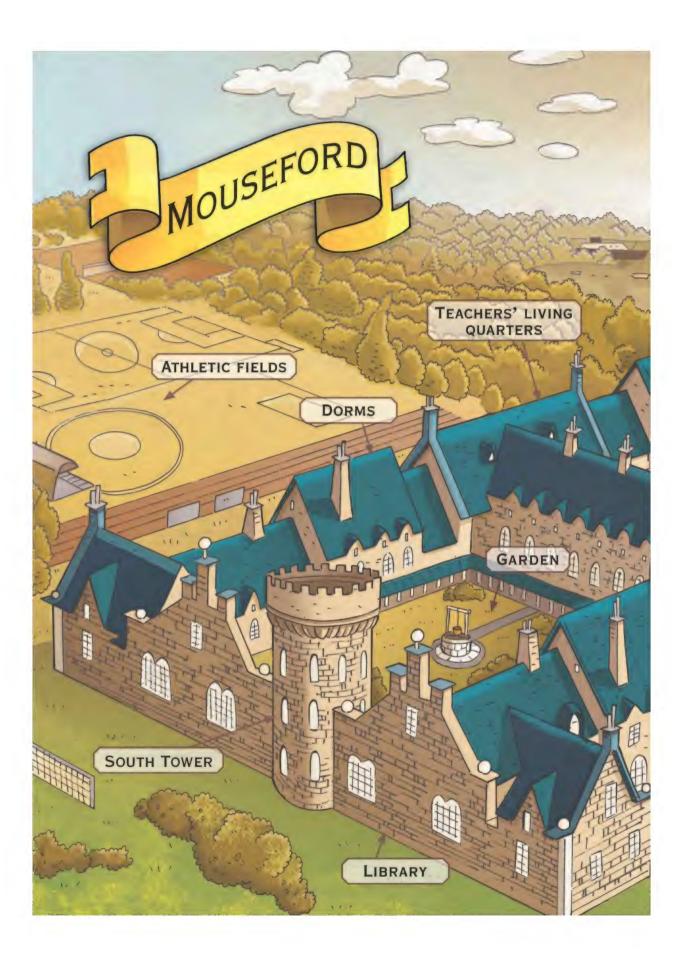


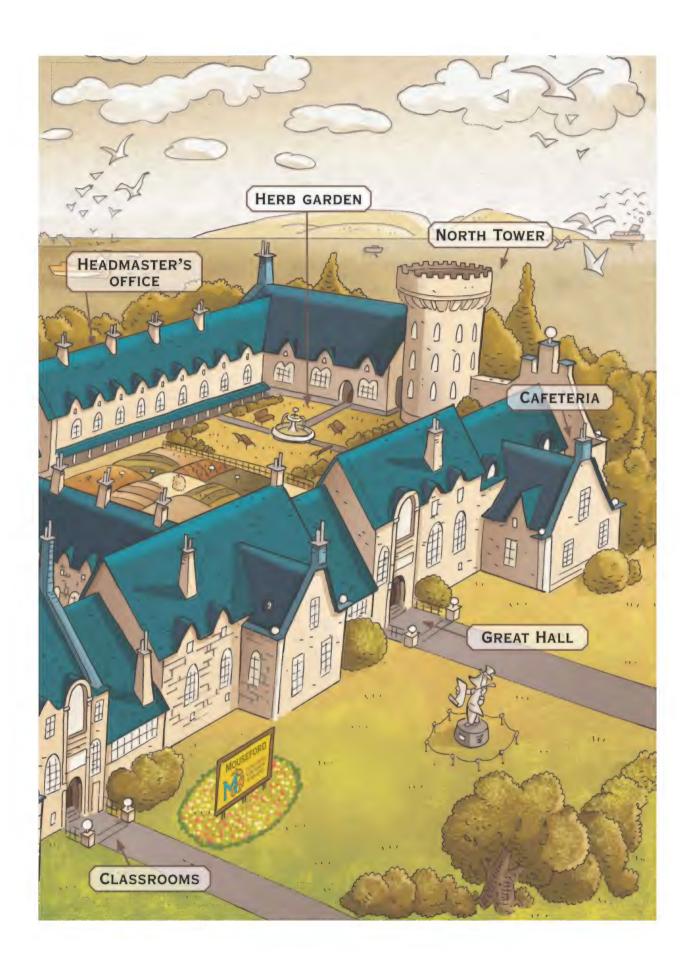
#5 Rescue Rebellion

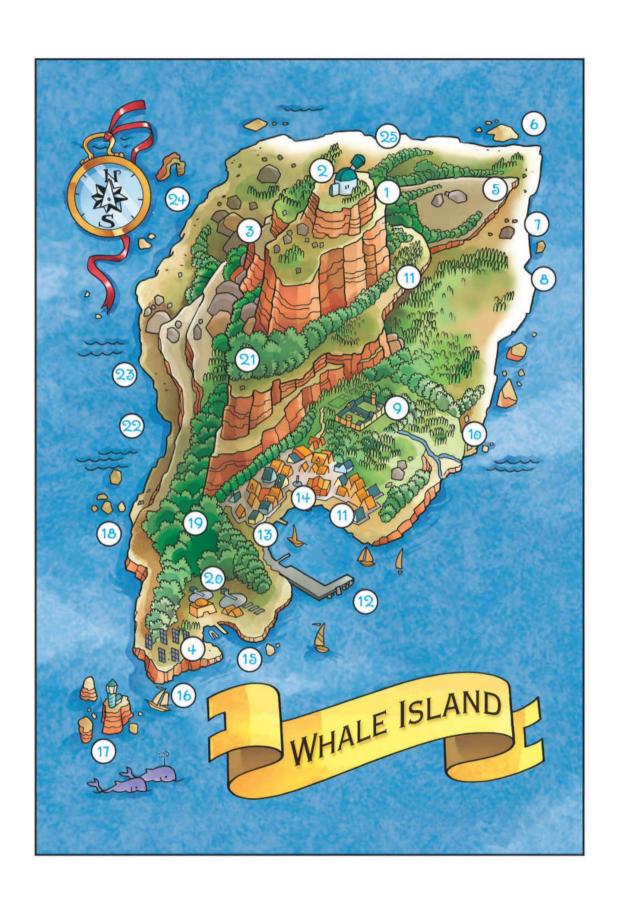
#4 The Galactic Goal

#6 The Underwater

Planet







MAP OF WHALE ISLAND

- **Falcon Peak** 1.
- 2. Observatory
- Mount Landslide
- 4. Solar Energy Plant
- 5. Ram Plain
- 6. Very Windy Point
- 7. **Turtle Beach**
- 8. Beachy Beach
- 9. Mouseford Academy 22. Windy Grotto
- 10. Kneecap River
- 11. Mariner's Inn
- 12. Port
- 13. Squid House

- 14. Town Square
- 15. Butterfly Bay
- 16. Mussel Point
- 17. Lighthouse Cliff
- 18. Pelican Cliff
- 19. Nightingale Woods
- 20. Marine Biology Lab
- 21. Hawk Woods
- 23. Seal Grotto
 - 24. Seagulls Bay
 - 25. Seashell Beach

THANKS FOR READING,
AND GOOD-BYE UNTIL OUR
NEXT ADVENTURE!



Theasisters

The Thea Sisters are
five students at Mouseford
Academy on Whale Island.
They are adventurous,
lively, fun mice, and they
want to become journalists
someday. Between lessons
and friendship, life at
Mouseford Academy is
incredibly fabumouse!



A FASHIONABLE MYSTERY

Anna Winmouse, the fabumouse editor-in-chief of *Cosmouse* magazine, is renting Cheddarton House, a cottage that overlooks Whale Island's Seashell Beach. She's trying to get away from the media for a while, but it hasn't been easy. Can the Thea Sisters help Anna Winmouse keep her visit to Whale Island a secret?

₩SCHOLASTIC



More leveling information for this book:

www.scholastic.com/geronimostilton www.geronimostilton.com